Of Global Importance

“There remains a lot of fear in Americans and people around the world as to what could happen next. I know the first time I boarded an airplane I could, for a second, see the horrible images of the airplanes flying into the World Trade Center. But, as quickly as I thought about it and feared it, it vanished. That fear may always be there, as same as the fear of walking across a busy street in Chicago or Madrid; the fear of the first day of a new job; the fear of saying “I do”; the fear of your first day of college; or the fear of studying abroad for any length of time. If we can accept these fears and know they subside, it will make things easier in the long run.”

---Emily Caldwell ’93

Terrorism has left an indelible mark on our society. A mark of fear. A mark of pain. But, also, a mark of need---a need for increased cultural understanding to promote peace in our time. Now, perhaps more than at any other time in history, the importance of studying abroad and learning about other cultures cannot be diminished.

“Fear is pretty natural. It’s pretty hard to address. We do tell our students that we’re not going to put them in harm’s way, but we can’t promise complete safety anywhere in life,” said Beth Moore, the director of Viterbo University’s global education.

Viterbo senior Chrissy Taylor felt little hesitation while signing up for a study abroad class, the Ecology of Belize, last spring. “Initially you cringe thinking about what could happen,” she said. “But, the desire to go overrode most of the fears that were there.”

Taylor felt reassured with the support offered by the global education office. Moore said she reassured students and made sure they knew exactly what to expect in terms of experiencing a new culture by discussing culture shock and hearing about Belize from people who’d already traveled there.

“We try to select reputable programs and we talk to our students about what to look for in a program. Does it have good on-site supervision? Is there a crisis plan in place? There’s much more emphasis on the preparedness of the program and the student,” she said. “Nothing replaces this kind of experience in terms of learning.”
Terrorism in the U.S. and abroad has thrust international education into the spotlight. New fees and legislation that make it more difficult to obtain a visa have been proposed—making it harder for students wanting to study in the U.S. Warnings that Americans abroad are targets for terrorism has made things uncomfortable for U.S. students wanting to study elsewhere. And, yet, professionals in higher education throughout the country are banding together to ensure legislators are aware of the impact these new laws are having on the university community. Just after Sept. 11, said Moore, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) proposed a hold on all visas for six months. Through cooperative work among those engaged in international education, the legislation was modified to suit everyone’s needs.

“People don’t realize the contribution that international students make to our economy,” said Moore. According to Open Doors: Report on International Education Exchange for 2001–02, last year alone, foreign students contributed more than 11 billion dollars to the U.S. economy through tuition and living expenses.

The educational community’s fears that study abroad programs would suffer after the events of Sept. 11 never materialized. More than 143,590 students studied abroad that year—an increase of 10 percent over the previous academic year (Open Doors). Many thought the threat of terrorism would have caused reverse effects because of fear of travel and security in general. But, the exact opposite was true. The Institute of International Education polled approximately 650 international education professionals about studying abroad and the events of Sept. 11. Almost 600 responded. An incredible 97 percent of those polled said that international education is now more important or equally important on their campuses after those events.

Before accepting a job with Brethren Colleges Abroad, Viterbo alumna Emily Caldwell was in the throes of job interviews with several international studies organizations in the wake of Sept. 11.

“In each interview, the question always arose about Sept. 11 and the effect it had on study abroad. I was reassured that study abroad applications had not decreased, but had slowly increased. I was perplexed. I thought international education would have been damaged by these events. But, I’ve come to realize that those tragic events had a more positive effect,” she said.

According to Moore, at Viterbo, there has been no adverse effect. “I certainly wondered what was going to happen after last year. I was pleasantly surprised over the number of students who’ve continued to come into the office,” she said.

Although some study-abroad programs did cancel portions of their trips, the only Viterbo trip affected was a group of Japanese nursing students who were supposed to visit in February 2002. They chose to delay their trip but were scheduled to return this February.

The Viterbo students set to study abroad last year proceeded with their plans. “I remember wanting to support the students in whatever decisions they made and not wanting them to feel pressure or to think less of themselves if they didn’t go,” said Moore.

“Still, it may be more important than ever now to seek out this kind of experience in the world we’re living in. It’s only in understanding other perspectives, ourselves, and where others come from that we can make changes,” she said.
Taylor is still enthused about her experience. “The people in Belize are so content and love being where they are. That made us so excited to be there. They’re so proud of their culture.” The trip, she said, made her more inquisitive. “I want to know what I don’t know. I had ideas about their culture and now everything’s been changed. I now look at other cultures in terms of what I don’t know.”

Caldwell, who got her first taste of international education by traveling to Mexico in the early 1990s as a student at Viterbo, agrees. “The experience opened my eyes to the world around me. I became culture hungry. I wanted to know more and learn more about different people and countries. I learned more about the pros and cons of my own country. And, it was in Mexico that I learned about myself,” she said.

In 1995, Caldwell took some graduate Spanish classes at Illinois State University and then studied for a year in Madrid, Spain. Since that time, she has traveled to 13 different countries.

“We can make up many reasons not to study abroad, but it’s better to think about why we should,” said Caldwell. “I can’t tell you how many professionals have told me the one thing they regret not doing in school is studying abroad.”

“I know a lot of students who study abroad have the same fear of leaving home and going to the unknown, but their lives are completely changed at the end of the experience,” said Caldwell. “As with any fear, we become stronger after it is faced.”

For more information on Viterbo University’s global education programs, contact Beth Moore at 608-796-3172 or email emoore@viterbo.edu.

By Beth Erickson ’93
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Destination: White House
Viterbo Nurse Finds Challenge and Opportunity

From the Katial File

Sometimes opportunity really does come in the form of a knock on the door. That’s what happened in 1985 when Rene (Dzienkowski) Katial’s Viterbo roommates opened the door to an Army recruiter. Soon to graduate, Katial wasn’t even interested in hearing the recruiter’s pitch---or so she thought.

Fortunately, that knock signaled the beginning of a series of opportunities that opened even bigger doors, including service in the nation’s capitol as a White House nurse to two U.S. presidents, their families, and other members of the presidential staff. An over 17-year military career, work at Walter Reed and other prestigious hospitals, and promotion to the rank of Army major was also to follow on the heels of Katial’s graduation from Viterbo.

Some call these kinds of opportunities, destiny; others call them luck combined with a healthy dose of tenacity and hard work. Whatever the circumstances, to this day, the Viterbo nursing graduate from Boyd, is amazed at how her exciting and memorable career almost never got started.
“I never imagined I would be doing this,” Katial said in a telephone interview from her then home in Silver Springs, Md. “There were five girls who lived in the house near Viterbo. I was definitely not interested in listening to the recruiter. In fact, I watched TV while he was there. All the others paid attention. Later, when I asked what it was all about, they said he talked about opportunities for leadership, traveling, continuing education, and tuition remission. That attracted me. Ironically, I was the only one of the five girls to join. At the time, I never, ever, imagined that I would be what they call a ‘lifer,’” which, according to Katial, is military jargon for 20 years of military service, a milestone she is fast approaching.

After graduating from Viterbo, Katial was directly commissioned as a second lieutenant and assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where she worked as a staff nurse in the orthopedic and neurosurgical unit.

As an Army nurse, Katial, 39, has held a number of military-assigned nursing positions and also earned a dual master’s degree as an adult nurse practitioner and critical care clinical nurse specialist. But, it is hard to rival the excitement and demands that were part of her job at the White House, which began in March 1999, and was to last 30 months.

“I’ve learned and grown a great deal in each of the positions I’ve held, but the most unforgettable and rewarding was my assignment as White House nurse,” she said.

Nurses working in the White House are expected to have extensive experience in intensive care or emergency-room nursing, certification in Advance Cardiac Life Support, trauma nursing—-even experience in responding to chemical biological threats.

With years of intensive nursing care experience at Walter Reed and Eisenhower Army Medical Center (Fort Gordon, Ga.), Katial fit the description. Her professionalism and skills did not go unnoticed, and her nursing superiors nominated her as a candidate for the White House nurse position. After a rigorous security clearance and interview process, Katial was selected for the position and began her assignment as a member of the larger White House Medical Unit (WHMU). According to Katial, WHMU consists of approximately 20 medical professionals including physicians, physician assistants, nurses, medical technicians, and administrative staff from all three military services—-Army, Air Force, and Navy. It is considered a joint assignment where you work cooperatively with other services to complete the mission.

The typical two-year tour was extended by six additional months and she provided care for two presidential and vice presidential families from the Clinton administration (March 1999?January 2001) and the Bush administration (January 2001?July 2002). In addition to providing medical care to the president, White House nurses are responsible for initial emergency medical care for thousands of visiting dignitaries, heads of state, members of Congress, and the hundreds of thousands of tourists that visit the White House each year.

During her tour, Katial accompanied the president on numerous foreign and domestic trips. Many of these involved travel on Air Force One, where she provided medical support to the President and guests as needed. In two and one-half years, she traveled to over 25 countries and 45 domestic cities. Her most memorable trips were to India, Vietnam, Okinawa, and Poland.

But, providing around-the-clock comprehensive medical support to the president, vice president and their families was her primary job, and it was not without stress. “You always carried a beeper and a cell phone, 24-hours a day, even when you were not officially on duty.
Whatever the job demanded, you did it,” Katial said. Sometimes you could anticipate your schedule for the following week by watching the news and following world events. For instance, national disasters or the death of a head of state often involved presidential travel to that region shortly after. “If you were covering the president directly, you also carried a three-way radio to track movements and be in direct communication with the presidential support staff and Secret Service.”

Katial and members of WHMU spent a great deal of time and energy on health promotion and disease and injury prevention for their White House customers. “They work in close proximity with the first and second families and get to know them on a cordial but, ultimately, professional basis,” Katial said. “Fortunately, the recent first families have been blessed with relatively good health, therefore, WHMU staff had a little time to make sure the White House pets---Buddy and Socks (the Clintons’) and Barnie and Spot (the Bushes’) were in good shape, too.”

Above all, Katial and her colleagues were expected to adhere to the highest level of professionalism and the standards of behavior were well defined. “As a WHMU health care provider, you do get to know the family members and develop a special rapport with them. If you are there long enough, they may become familiar with you on a first-name basis. Occasionally, you have an opportunity for a friendly conversation with members of the first and second families, but these are usually brief, spontaneous occurrences,” Katial said.

“Each president and administration is different and has its own patterns and style. The Clintons would show their gratitude to the support staff at Christmas by hosting a Christmas party in which we were the invited guests of the first family. We had the opportunity to sit for tea and hors d’oeuvres in the Green, Red, and Blue rooms on the state floor of the White House.

“George W. Bush was similarly gracious, by taking time to stop by the medical office on his way to the Oval Office to briefly say ‘hello’ to the medical staff,” Katial said.

As active duty military, political preference was not expected to play a role in the responsibilities provided by the WHMU health care provider. “You are expected to serve the Office of the President whether he is a Democrat, Republican, or Independent,” Katial said. “The president is commander in chief and is always treated with ultimate respect.”

Always, professionalism and protocol dictated a high standard of professional behavior. “As with any patient, we were discreet and confidential about the health and personal matters of the first and second families. We would not discuss the details of our daily work with family or friends,” Katial said. “Sometimes the press would approach us, and we were diplomatic about refusing to comment and always referred them to the press secretary who would regulate the information that was made public.”

Another aspect of her job required travel to destinations in advance of the president to review local medical facilities and resources that could be used in the event that the president needed medical services. During these advances, WHMU nurses developed a thorough emergency medical plan that would take into consideration all presidential events and engagements during the trip. “You must always be anticipating the unexpected and be prepared with a medical back-up plan,” she said.
Katial recalled one such incident when she traveled in advance of President Bush, in spring 2001, to Quebec to prepare medical support for the Summit of Americas. “There were more than 30 heads of state in Quebec at one time. It was very challenging to ensure appropriate medical support would be accessible when there were so many leaders and motorcades in one small city.”

“There was a constant threat from protesters who were kept outside a perimeter. [The police] were using tear-gas canisters and, at times, we felt the burning sensation in our nose and eyes just getting in and out of the designated event sites. We were called upon to treat support personnel who had experienced heavier doses of tear gas. We examined them and assisted with decontamination of the irritant.”

Katial said that she felt fortunate to have served at the White House during exciting times. President Clinton's emphasis on foreign relations and Israeli-Palestinian peace talks resulted in extensive travel to foreign countries. WHMU nurses also provided medical support for Hillary Clinton, one of the most traveled first ladies.

“It was an incredible experience to see so many different countries and cultures, to observe their leaders and political process, and to witness historical events first hand,” recalled Katial.

The end of 2000 brought long days and extensive travel as President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and Mrs. Clinton were all on the campaign trail.

“It was fascinating to witness the election and campaign process from inside the White House. It required a lot of stamina to move quickly from the motorcade to the multiple event sites with the medical response bag in hand and to stand ready as the president approached his events and the many, many rope lines. You would have to be prepared from early morning to sometimes late at night to work in every kind of weather and setting.

“It was especially interesting to accompany the president to California because many of the fundraising events involved the support of movie stars. It was fun to see the celebrities, but we rarely had an opportunity to meet or talk to them. Our job is to support the president and his mission in the most efficient, invisible, and discreet fashion. During presidential events, we stand ready with other support staff in hold areas that are often in a hallway, backroom, or backstage area. Sometimes we would sit in a room for hours, just waiting to go to the next event. We would often learn the details of what happened at an event by watching the news or reading the paper the next day,” explained Katial. The experience of being a White House nurse was the opportunity of a lifetime, and one that left Katial with some exciting and powerful memories. As she reached the end of her tour, the prospect of a traditional job and hours was also attractive, as Katial and her husband wanted to start a family.

“I was deeply honored to be chosen to serve with other highly skilled medical professionals in WHMU. It was a privilege to serve the president, the vice president, and their families by assisting them with their medical needs and promoting their ultimate health and well being. I learned a great deal and contributed in a small way to the Office of the President and the strength of our great nation.”

The military still holds great allure for Katial, who now spends a lot more time at home with her husband and their new son, John, who, at four pounds, was an early arrival in September.
After leaving the WHMU, Katial was assigned again to Walter Reed Army Medical Center as the program director of the Critical Care Nursing Course. She and her family have since moved to Colorado for a new assignment at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. She is scheduled for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Katial admitted her career has amounted to quite an adventure---one that started in La Crosse, with a knock on the door that signaled the opening of a world of opportunity. In particular, the job of White House nurse is one she will never forget and she is thankful that years ago, as a Viterbo undergraduate, she was acquiring knowledge and skills that would later be put to good use. “I think Viterbo prepared me well for work in the field of nursing. That’s where Viterbo did me the biggest favor. The professors made sure that we had good clinical experiences, and the skills I developed were the result of the clinical instructors’ close supervision and attention to detail.”

And, for her part, Rene Katial, put all that she learned to the best possible use. She will now engage in another experience with different nursing challenges at her new assignment in Fort Carson. “I am content to watch the president in the news with my new son and my husband at home,” said Katial in a fitting postscript to a very exciting chapter in her life.

By Pat Kerrigan
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ON CAMPUS

Enrollment Climbs

Total fall enrollment at Viterbo University set a new high, up seven percent from last year’s record figure. Enrollment stands at 2,331 students according to official statistics released by the registrar’s office.

Several other new marks were also set. Graduate level enrollment jumped 18 percent to set an all-time record of 557. Next summer, university officials expect to see 460 graduate level teachers attend proseminar classes on campus.

The number of full-time undergraduate students (1,546) also broke the record set in 1997 (1,532). Viterbo’s enrollments have been at or near capacity for a number of years in terms of classroom and living space available for enrolled students, yet the number continues to grow because the increase has been spread out over a variety of programs.

“Much of our growth over the past decade has been with adult programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, which are offered in the evening or off campus,” said William J. Medland, president of Viterbo University. “Next year, the Center for Ethics, Science, and Technology will make available more classroom space, which we desperately need.

“The growth that we have experienced has allowed Viterbo to expand its programs not only for our students but also in other initiatives---such as the fine arts---to the community at large. That has had a very positive effect,” Medland said.
Viterbo University Debuts New "Learn for Life" Ad Campaign

A new set of print advertisements and a new look for the Viterbo Web site were unveiled at an employee open house in November. The campaign, featuring Viterbo’s “Learn for Life” branding statement, was developed by the communications and marketing staff based on extensive research and the findings of the Integrated Marketing Committee.

Over 100 faculty and staff attended the unveiling, which also included door prizes, refreshments, and cakes that featured images of the ads and Web on the frosting.

The new ad campaign features current faculty, including Glena Temple, biology, and Wendy Wegner, nursing, and current students. Each ad has the statement “It’s Your Life,” followed by a life “lesson” or goal and a description of how that is occurring at Viterbo University today. Some of the “lessons” include, “Make Wise Investments,” focusing on scholarships; “Learn at Any Age,” highlighting adult learning; and “Be Your Best,” focusing on Viterbo’s strong heritage of quality education.

The new Web site also features the “Learn for Life” slogan. Providing faster load time, its highlights include a drop down list of academic majors, selections for frequently accessed areas, and resources listed specifically by audience (current students, future students, parents, alumni, etc.). The bright, vivid colors reflect today’s trends.

Business Ethics is Series’ Focus

Enron. Worldcom. Global Crossing. Imclone. Tired of hearing about business practices only when they go bad? A series of Brown Bag Lectures at Viterbo University offers a fresh outlook by focusing on the successes of good business practices currently taking place in our communities.

The speakers in this series have included: La Crosse Chief of Police Ed Kondracki (right) and La Crosse Public School Superintendent Tom Downs (left) who discussed “The Seven Habits of Effective Leaders” and City Brewery President Randy Smith (below) who discussed “Building Business for the Long Haul.” Future Brown Bag speakers include: Brian Rude, who will speak on Feb. 18 about the business and political ramifications of being honest in the governance of your professional life, and Lutheran Bishop April Larson, who on April 23 will address the advantages of living an ethically sound and morally upright life in family/personal and professional settings.

“This series gives people the opportunity to engage in a discussion about how to adopt ethical practices in their own places of work. It also is an opportunity for our students to see for themselves the practical emphasis that many respected business leaders place on ethics,” said Richard Kyte, director of the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership.

The Brown Bag Lectures are jointly sponsored by the ethics institute and the Dahl School of Business.
Get Set for Another Flavor of Soul

Dec. 29, 2002 marked what would have been the 65th birth year of the late Thea Bowman, FSPA. Friends of Thea will gather to celebrate her life at the third annual "Flavor of Soul" event on Wednesday, April 2 in the Viterbo Fine Arts Center at 7 p.m.

Join famed artist Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS for "An Evening with Thea." Br. McGrath, who never knew Thea, cites her as the inspiration behind his artistic career, which started with a series of Thea portraits. During the evening, he will present a slide show about Thea's life and his artwork. Spirited gospel music by the Viterbo Concert Choir, under the direction of Viterbo's Dan Johnson-Wilmot, will be interspersed throughout the free talk.

A booksigning and art signing session will follow. For more information on the artwork of Br. McGrath, explore his Web site at www.beestill.com. For information on "Flavor of Soul," contact Charlene Smith, FSPA '63 at Thea House, 608-791-5618 or email csmith@fspa.org.

Leaders Share Expertise on Campus

A former Senator, President Clinton’s former spiritual advisor, national and international musicians, and an author and comedian were among the guests on campus this semester. Each presented a free talk to a different audience, and each one inspired the many who attended. The speakers included:

John Powers: An author, comedian, and educator, Powers presented a program last summer entitled, “Learning is for the Birds... The Ones Who Want to Fly.” The talk drew more than 500 people—including 300-plus teachers who were attending graduate education classes at Viterbo, other teachers, parents, and members of school boards and the community. Powers, who has received two Emmy awards for his work in television, wrote and co-produced the Broadway musical Do Black Leather Shoes Really Reflect Upward? He has been a guest on hundreds of radio and television shows including Oprah and Today and has taught on the elementary and junior high levels. He was a professor at Northeastern Illinois University and holds a Ph.D. in communications from Northwestern University.

Former Senator Paul Simon: A Democrat from Illinois, Simon shared his thoughts on the current state of our criminal justice system in a September talk in the Fine Arts Center as part of a conference on “Crime and Punishment on Trial: Community Values and the Criminal Justice System.” As an influential member of Congress, Simon spent over 40 years in public service and his opinions on a variety of topics were known and respected on both sides of the political aisle. Now retired from public office, he currently serves as director of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University. The conference and Simon’s visit was sponsored by the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership with support from the La Crosse Tribune, the Wisconsin Public Defenders Office, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse’s School of Education, Western Wisconsin Technical Institute, and the Viterbo University criminal justice department.

Ruth MacKenzie: A singer, writer, and composer, MacKenzie has been a member of the Twin Cities Arts Community for many years. She has received many awards for her work, including a Jonathan Larsen Award for Excellence, a 1997 Artist of Note by the Twin Cities’ Star Tribune, Artist of the Year in 1997 by City Pages, and a McKnight Fellowship in Music Performance. MacKenzie was in La Crosse in October to perform as a vocalist with the
Minnesota Dance Theatre’s *Rumblings*, as part of the Viterbo University NexStar series of performances, and she also presented a jazz masterclass.

**Gordon MacDonald:** An author, speaker, church consultant, and teacher, MacDonald was a pastor for more than 35 years, most recently at Grace Chapel in Lexington, Mass. He currently serves on the Board of Trinity Forum, a group of intellectuals working for “renewal and transformation of society through its leaders” and was one of former President Clinton’s spiritual advisors. He spoke at Viterbo in October about overcoming personal defeats and setbacks as part of the St. Rose Lecture Series. MacDonald has written more than a dozen books and co-authored others with his wife. He is perhaps best known as the author of *Ordering Your Private World*.

**Fr. Robert Koopmann:** A professor of music at St. John’s University and the College of St. Benedict in Minnesota since 1975, Fr. Koopmann performed a piano masterclass in November. A performer himself, he has played concerts nationally and internationally. He has a doctorate in piano performance from the University of Iowa, with further studies in New York and London. He has won a number of competitions, and has performed with such orchestras as the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Bach Chamber Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and the St. Cloud Civic Orchestra.

**Fundraiser Modeled After Hit Show**


On Monday, Oct. 28, Bassett won $100 as the winner of the VU Idol event, modeled after the popular television show American Idol. She was also selected, by applause, as the winner of the People’s Choice Award, for which she received an American Idol DVD set. She competed with 10 other students from Viterbo.

Nearly 300 people attended this first-time event, filling the Marian Hall Dining Room to capacity. The event was a fundraiser, collecting nearly $500 for VH-1’s Save the Music Foundation.

Other students competing in “VU Idol”: Laura Ernst and Derrick Harper juggled to “Hit the Road, Jack”; Kayla Sundean sang “In His Eyes”; Jim Seem sang “Rivers of Babylon”; Kimberly Hutchinson sang “Reflections”; Jessie Resch sang “Something Worth Leaving Behind”; Andrew Lonsdale played guitar and sang “Free Bird”; Geoffrey Kronn danced to “Smooth Criminal”; Katie Mumaw sang “With One Look at You”; and Amanda Zeitler sang “Till You Love Me.”

**Events Celebrate Feast Day**

In keeping with Franciscan tradition, Viterbo honored St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) on his feast day, Oct. 4. Events celebrating the saint, known as a lover of nature, animals, and people, included:

- Bread Delivery to people living in the vicinity of campus. This was done with the “Neighborhood Group,” which includes Viterbo, Aquinas, Chileda, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, and Franciscan Skemp Healthcare.
- The Ninth Annual Pet Blessing by Fr. Tom O’Neill, Viterbo campus ministry.
- “The Journey and the Dream,” a talk by Julio Bird, a cardiologist at Gundersen Lutheran and the first La Crosse man and Puerto Rican to successfully climb
Mt. Everest.
St. Francis Day Mass.

Spooktacular Events Help Community
Viterbo students dressed as ghosts, goblins, princes, and princesses were out in full force to help the community this year on Halloween.

Viterbo’s student chapter of the Wisconsin Education Association held its annual Safe Trick-or-Treat on campus and drew attendance from several hundred area children.

Providing a safe and fun environment for children ages 12 and under is the goal of this event. Children trick-or-treat from dorm-to-dorm, play games, and visit a haunted house in the Student Union.

Connect Club members also donned costumes but spent their time trick-or-treating in South Side neighborhoods for non-perishable food items to be donated to Place of Grace, a local Catholic worker house. Connect is a Viterbo-sponsored club, which educates students about healthy lifestyles and low-risk choices.

This was the fourth year that Connect coordinated the event. According to Club Secretary Staci Arndt, “The response has been great. Neighbors know who we are, and many already have bags ready when we arrive.”

Solving Whodunits with Fingerprint Analysis
Volleyballs, school lunches, and other paraphernalia were among items “stolen” at Lincoln Middle School in November, and Viterbo’s Shane Lanning ’02 with seventh graders from Rick Stewart’s Medical Partnership class were the sleuths who solved the cases through fingerprint analysis.

Lanning, who majored in pre-med, talked about forensic science and demonstrated how to dust for, lift, and analyze fingerprints from a crime scene, using expertise he gathered during an internship in the Forensic Fingerprint Division of the State Crime Lab in Minnesota last summer. He shared his knowledge with the middle schoolers as part of a service learning experience for Tom Thibodeau’s Servant Leadership class.

Following a presentation, groups of students were given made-up crimes involving the school and students, along with a set of 12 fingerprints, and several prints from the “crime.” One group had it more difficult as they only had one fingerprint of their culprit along with the prints of the usual suspects. Students then matched the prints from the crime with one of the 12 suspects and made their accusations before the classroom “court.”

“We think it’s Zach Stewart,” said Megan Leifer, whose group was finding out who “stole” volleyballs.
“Ah ha. A known thief,” teased Mr. Stewart about his son, Zach.

Proving to be quick learners, the students all made accurate allegations in their cases. “You guys are too good,” said Lanning. “I should have made these cases a bit tougher.”

Finally, the students witnessed the solution to the main crime. A bunch of the General Mills box tops collected for education were taken from Mr. Stewart’s classroom. Who did it? Fingerprint analysis showed it was seventh-grader Andrew Londre. Londre was “arrested” by middle school liaison officer Tom Walsh and escorted from the room in handcuffs—only to be returned a few minutes later so the class could offer a round of applause to Lanning for teaching them the ins and outs of fingerprinting.

The Medical Partnership Program at Lincoln Middle School works cooperatively with Viterbo University, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, Gundersen Lutheran, and others in the community to teach science and math skills and other core subjects to the middle school students. In addition to Lanning’s outreach, Ward Jones, a biology professor, taught a unit on bacteriology to the students.

**Viterbo Unveils Prayer Book**

If my eyes are open, let me see.
If my mind is open, let me learn.
If my heart is open, let me love.
If my arms are open, let me embrace.
If I am bitter, let me change.
If I am jealous, let me be thoughtful.
If I am sad, let me forgive.
If I am ignorant, let me experience.
If I am selfish, let me be generous.
If I am insecure, let me be confident.
If I am scared, let me be courageous.
If my arms are closed,
If my heart is closed,
If my mind is closed,
If my eyes are closed, let me awake.

*Andrea Zentz ’03
from the Viterbo University
Book of Prayers*

In honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, Viterbo University unveiled its *Book of Prayers*, which includes submissions from students and alumni. President William J. Medland came up with the idea last spring and a committee was formed to work out the details. According to Medland, the book highlights Viterbo’s Franciscan heritage and its commitment to faith, knowledge, and service as evidenced by the university seal. In a La Crosse Tribune interview he stated, “Many are familiar with the academic and service sides of this triangle. Fewer are familiar with Viterbo as a Catholic, Franciscan, and ecumenical faith community. *The Book of Prayers* gives unity to and is a manifestation of our faith community.”
The book, which features the Dancing Francis statue on the cover, also contains prayers from Scripture and the Catholic tradition, prayers for specific occasions, prayers from the Franciscan tradition, prayers for peace, as well as prayers from other religious traditions. Prayer authors include Martin Luther, Mother Theresa, and Thea Bowman, FSPA '65. Copies of this limited edition, 112-page book are available for $5 each, plus shipping and handling, through communications and marketing. Call 608-796-3047 or email communication@viterbo.edu to order or for details.

New Faculty Add Talents to Viterbo

J. David Blatt is associate professor of theatre. Raised in Casper, Wyo., Blatt received his Associate of Arts degree at Casper College in 1976. He went on to get his bachelor’s in theatre education with a minor in health science education and a master’s degree in theatrical design through the University of Utah. Blatt can be reached at 608-796-3799 or jdblatt@viterbo.edu.

Betty Brendel is assistant professor of education. Brendel received a bachelor’s degree from Viterbo University in 1970 in home economics and secondary education with a minor in English. She received her ME-PD with a concentration in curriculum and supervision from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Brendel can be reached at 608-796-3287 or ejbrendel@viterbo.edu.

Judy Casto is associate professor of nursing. Casto received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Georgia State University in Atlanta and her master’s in child health nursing with a sub-specialty in pediatric oncology from Emory University in Atlanta. She is also a certified pediatric oncology nurse. She can be reached at 608-796-3676 or email jlcasto@viterbo.edu.

Susan Cosby is an assistant professor of English. Cosby received her bachelor’s degree in English from Hendrix College in Conway, Ark. and her master’s in English literature from Southwest Missouri State in Springfield. She earned her doctoral degree in 16th and 17th century British literature with a secondary emphasis in women’s writing from the University of Oklahoma. She can be reached at 608-796-3490 or sgcosby@viterbo.edu.

Gerard Ferrari is an assistant professor in ceramics. He received his undergraduate degree in ceramics from Berea College in Kentucky and his master’s degree in ceramics at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. He can be reached at 608-796-3757 or gjferrari@viterbo.edu.

Alida Herling is an assistant professor of nutrition and dietetics. Herling received her bachelor’s degree in dietetics and nutrition from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menominee and her master’s degree in public health nutrition from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. She can be reached at 608-796-3663 or ramherling@viterbo.edu.

Venancio Luz is a graphic design instructor. He received his bachelor’s degree in art with a marketing emphasis from Viterbo University in 1984. He is an award-winning graphic designer and the founder of RayD8 Media Design. He can be reached at 608-796-3752 or valuz@viterbo.edu.

Silvana Panza, FSPA is an instructor of Italian in the foreign language department. Sr. Panza received her bachelor’s degree and elementary teaching certification from A. Galizia in
Salerno, Italy. Her master’s degree in spiritual theology is from the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome and her doctorate in education is from the University of Palermo. She can be reached at 608-796-3077 or spanza@viterbo.edu.

Virginia Pharr is a professor of religious studies. Pharr received her Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education/English with minors in speech and drama and psychology from the College of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Ind. She received her master’s degree in systematic theology and Christian spirituality from St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn. and her doctorate in ministry with a focus on Christian sexual ethics and pastoral ministry from the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She can be reached at 608-796-3709 or vlpharr@viterbo.edu.

Jennifer Sadowski is an assistant professor in biology. She received her bachelor’s degree in biology from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. and went on to get her doctorate in biology from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Sadowski can be reached at 608-796-3466 or jasadowski@viterbo.edu.

PHILANTHROPY NOTES

Second Steinway Being Saved

Restoration on a second Steinway grand piano is nearly complete thanks to the efforts of the Save Our Steinways (SOS) crew. More than 100 people attended the annual SOS event held this year on Saturday, Sept. 21. The evening began with cocktails at the home of Jay and Judy Hoeschler, and was followed by dinner and a musical program in the Viterbo Fine Arts Center Lobby.

The SOS group was formed four years ago to raise money to restore and reclaim the full beauty and sound of a number of older Steinways Viterbo owns. The committee and its chair, Fe Abellera, held many meetings to plan for this successful fundraiser. To date, approximately $50,000 has been raised and one seven-foot Steinway has been completed, renovated, and returned to service. Another nine-foot grand is nearing completion in work done by Joel Lidstrom at his studio in rural Caledonia, Minn.

According to Lidstrom, the process to restore the Viterbo Steinway he is currently working on requires “a tremendous amount of work. The soundboard assessment and repairs have been made. We are adding a new finish to the soundboard and the bridges—the interface between the strings and soundboard—will be re-done; a new mirror finish will be applied. I am optimistic this instrument will be nothing short of world class,” Lidstrom said.

Once back at Viterbo, the Steinway will be used by students for their recitals, as well as for faculty and visiting professional guest artists.

According to Bill Medland, president of Viterbo, because of the efforts of the SOS committee and its fundraising success, the university has been able to preserve instruments that today
could cost in excess of $100,000 to replace. “Everybody involved in the fine arts who knows about this project is absolutely delighted,” he said.

Viterbo owns a number of other Steinways and plans are to continue fundraising to allow the university to renovate several others. For more information on SOS, contact Natalie McGarry, institutional advancement, at 608-796-3073 or email njmcgarry@viterbo.edu.

Heagle Returns as Ripple Comin Lecturer

An ordained priest from the Diocese of La Crosse returned to the area as the guest speaker for this year’s Paula Ripple Comin Endowed Lecture Series. Author and international speaker Fr. John Heagle discussed “Tender Fires: The Spiritual Promise of Sexuality” at the Fine Arts Center in September.

Fr. Heagle’s talk was based on a new book by the same name, which he co-authored with Fran Ferder, Ph.D., FSPA.

Following the presentation, Viterbo student Amanda Blank was awarded the Paula Ripple Comin Endowed Scholarship. A Viterbo graduate, former dean of students, and past president of the FSPA, Paula Ripple Comin died of cancer in 1998. For more information on Fr. Heagle, the book, and his talk, visit the Viterbo Web site at: www.viterbo.edu/campnews/releases/archives/fall2002/09052002-1.html.

Alumna Returns

It’s back to Viterbo University for Dawn Scott, who graduated from Viterbo in 1999 with a degree in organizational management. Scott returned at the start of this academic year in a new capacity---as director of annual giving in institutional advancement. Her responsibilities include the alumni and parent phonathons, scholarship development, and the employee campaign. Prior to joining Viterbo, Scott worked at Trane Company in La Crosse as a marketing specialist.

Case Closed

“Detective” Dawn Scott, institutional advancement, led Viterbo employees through the “Case of the Mysterious Employee Campaign Challenge” this year. Employees were asked to help solve the case by submitting pledges to show their commitment to Viterbo. More than 66 percent of employees met the challenge and helped close the books on this case. A total of 173 employees participated---helping Viterbo remain among the top schools in the nation in terms of employee-giving participation.

Scholarships Highlight Health Sciences

Two new scholarships at Viterbo University will ensure assistance for deserving students in the health sciences.

The James Wewerka Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a nursing student with demonstrated financial need. The scholarship is named for James Wewerka who was a 1975 graduate of Viterbo University. He was a practicing nurse anesthetist in Neillsville and Eau Claire for the 14 years prior to his death.
Kay Shriver and LaVerne Ramaeker, FSPA ’58 recently established the Shriver/Ramaeker Health Sciences Scholarship. It is awarded to a student in a health sciences-related major who is in good academic standing. For more information about scholarships, contact Dawn Scott, institutional advancement at 608-796-3075 or email dlscott@viterbo.edu.

Winter Social Inaugurates the Holidays

Celebrating the holidays was in order during the President’s annual Winter Social at Viterbo University on Friday, Dec. 6 in the Fine Arts Center. Benefactors and friends gathered to enjoy an hors d’oeuvre reception and watch the music department’s Bright Star Season performance of a “Magical Christmas Celebration.” The evening was capped off with the much anticipated Lobby Party, which featured caroling and refreshments.

Medland Receives Award for Ecumenism

Viterbo President Bill Medland received the Iverson/Freking Ecumenical Recognition Award in a ceremony Jan. 19 in La Crosse.

The award, which is named in honor of a prominent Lutheran, Carl Iverson, and the late Bishop Fredrick Freking of the Diocese of La Crosse, is intended to honor those who reflect unselfish dedication to foster and promote ecumenical efforts based on mutual respect for all faiths. The award is sponsored by Bethany-St. Joseph Corporation, which was established in 1976 as a cooperative ecumenical endeavor sponsored by the Christian communities of the La Crosse area.

At the press conference where the recipients were announced to the public, Medland said, “I was humbled and shocked when I was informed. Initially I thought, ‘You must have the wrong person.’”

According to the award sponsors, Medland, who is starting his 12th year at Viterbo, was selected because of his strong leadership and his commitment to inclusiveness at southwestern Wisconsin’s only Catholic university. Viterbo has a reputation for providing a strong Catholic, Franciscan and ecumenical culture on a campus that welcomes students of all faiths. Randy Eddy, Sr., owner of Carrier Insurance of La Crosse, was named the other recipient of the award.

SPORTS CORNER

Athletics and Academics Make for Challenging Combination

It’s 5:55 a.m. on a crisp fall morning. Travis Peterson is hustling over to the Student Activities Center for his morning weightlifting session. Meghan Bork is already there, stretching before starting her early morning volleyball practice. Kirstin Monroe is heading to the hospital for a 6:15 a.m. clinical.

College students hardly have the reputation for being early risers, but for this trio, starting at the crack of dawn is usually part of their routine—often the only way to fit everything into a
jam-packed schedule. And, as student-athletes, they need to be doubly motivated if they want to succeed in the game and in the classroom.

Bork is a senior on the volleyball team, while Peterson is gearing up for his final season on the baseball diamond. Monroe is a junior forward on the V-Hawk women's basketball team. All three were on the Dean’s List last year.

This past semester, Bork had a full load of classes, was the president of two clubs, had two work-study positions, volunteered at New Horizons women’s shelter, and held a part-time job. She is planning to go to law school after graduation and has been spending any free time she has studying for the L-SAT test, writing her personal statement, and filling out applications.

She’s been busy.

With a plate that full, free time is at a premium for Bork, but she says it’s just a matter of balancing time and having priorities to reach your goals.

“I don’t think I completely get all the social time that I want, but that’s okay. A lot of my friends are busy also, to the point that if I had more free time, there wouldn’t be anyone to socialize with. I think I also get enough sleep, although more would be better. In season, you ride that line of getting sick if you don’t get enough sleep, but I know when I’m going too far.”

Like most students, Bork looks forward to Fridays, but often because that is when the V-Hawks board a bus to head to weekend tournaments in places like St. Paul or Dubuque. On road trips, she can often relax and hang out with her teammates, not having to worry so much about balancing her time. Games, scouting sessions, and meals are taken care of by the coaching staff. For a few hours, all Bork has to worry about is playing a game she loves.

For Peterson, keeping busy is the best way to be productive.

“The busier my schedule, the better off I am,” said Peterson. “It’s gratifying when the day is over. I sleep better at night knowing I stayed on task.”

Busy days come often for Peterson, who is not only concerned about his grades and his fielding percentage at shortstop, but also about paying for a private education. While many of the big NCAA Division I and II colleges have full athletics scholarships, Viterbo student-athletes often have to work several jobs to make ends meet. Peterson has two work-study positions and he works at Applebee’s restaurant. Plus, he heads to Community Bio-Resources one or two times a week to donate plasma in exchange for cash.

“It’s tough fitting work hours into my schedule, but it can be done and Coach (Larry Lipker) is really understanding. The time to goof-off, it’s just not there...but I would never give up being part of the baseball team. We’re like a fraternity; the camaraderie really makes it worthwhile.”

Peterson’s successful balancing act is mainly due to his ability to communicate and his strong work ethic.
“There is no excuse why you can’t get an assignment to a professor if you miss a class due to a game. The instructors here have been great. It’s all about communication. I let them know ahead of time if I’m going to miss a class, and we are always able to work something out.”

Monroe, meanwhile, understands now that prioritizing her time in college is critical. The reason she enrolled at Viterbo was to earn a degree in nursing within four years while continuing to play the game she loves. And, if she didn’t know it as a freshman, she is learning now that to meet those goals often means starting her day at 5:30 a.m.

“Clinicals are usually eight-hour shifts, plus you need to take a lot of time to prepare the night before,” said Monroe. “And, when volleyball was in season and we didn’t have much gym time available, we often had to practice before classes started. I was getting up around 5:30 a.m. pretty much four days a week.”

For Monroe and her two fellow athletes, Peterson and Bork, their life is hectic and will probably remain that way right up to graduation. But, they wouldn’t have it any other way. After all, they say success and hard work go hand-in-hand both on and off the field. And, that is a lesson in life worth learning.

By Nels Popp
nkpopp@viterbo.edu

On the Rebound

Freshman Justin Kirking of Sparta led the way for the V-Hawk men as they defeated the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UW-L) and brought the men’s Alumni Cup back to Viterbo for the first time in five years. Kirking (shown at right) set an Alumni Cup record for most rebounds in a game with 12 boards, to go along with his 13 points, as the V-Hawks kept the record between the inter-city rivalry in their favor. The V-Hawk men have beaten UW-L eight times in the 14-year history of the grudge match. In the women’s contest, the V-Hawks were clipped 68-61. However, Viterbo still holds the historical edge over the UW-L women, having won six out of 11 Alumni Cup games between the two schools.

Author Tackles Tough Subject

Bioethics is a hot topic in a society where so many biologic and scientific research projects raise ethical questions. But what exactly does a bioethicist do and how does one work effectively in such circles as patient care, government, education, media, research, and more?

Judith Andre ’67 tackles those questions in her recent book Bioethics as Practice, published by the University of North Carolina Press. Andre received her bachelor's degree in English with minors in French and philosophy. She went on to receive her master's and doctoral degrees from Michigan State. She is currently a professor at the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences at Michigan State University. Bioethics as Practice is available online for $29.95 through the University of North Carolina Press office at www.uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-5200.html.
Alumna Has Hand in Emmy-Winning Series

Charlotte Hockings, who graduated from Viterbo University in 2001 with a Master of Arts in Education degree served as a production assistant on an Emmy award-winning public television production.

Hockings and her husband, Nick, were responsible for props and location for the dramatic scenes in Waasa Inaabidaa---We Look in All Directions, a six-part documentary on the history and culture of the Anishinaabe-Ojibwe people of the Great Lakes. The series was nominated for 11 regional Emmy Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and won five. It also won the Best Documentary Feature at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, and its producer, Lorraine Norgaard, won the Producer’s Award for the series at the same festival. It has been aired on PBS stations across the country. For more information, see the Web site www.ojibwe.org.

The Hockings are from Lac du Flambeau.

Two Receive Cepress Alumni Scholarship

A nursing student and an elementary education student got their start at Viterbo last fall due, in large part, to the Sr. Celestine Cepress Endowed Alumni Children’s Scholarship. Each received $1,300 toward their education.

La Crosse native Meghan Gleason is continuing a tradition started by her grandmother, Joyce Libert ’77, who graduated from Viterbo with a degree in education, and currently is a teacher in West Salem. Gleason’s mother, Amy, graduated from Viterbo in 1981, also with a degree in elementary education, and teaches at Cathedral School in La Crosse. Meghan’s cousin will be starting at Viterbo next year.

Missy Brown, from North Freedom, also is following in the footsteps of her relatives. The nursing student is the daughter of Mary Brown, who received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1999 from Viterbo. “On occasional visits with her to the campus,” said Missy, “I dreamed of attending college here. My dreams are becoming a reality.” Missy was working as a certified nursing assistant at a nursing home in North Freedom during her last year-and-a-half at home in preparation for her studies. She ultimately would like to get her master’s degree and work as a nurse practitioner.

Campbell Considered for Surgeon General

Viterbo alumna Kristine Campbell, who received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Viterbo in 1974, was in the running for U.S. Surgeon General after President George W. Bush took office. The following article, by Brad Bryan, is reprinted with permission from the Arcadia News-Leader.

“Veteran U.S. Army Reserve officer and former Arcadia resident Brigadier General Kristine K. Campbell was considered by the Bush Administration for the then vacant Surgeon General position. The position has since been filled by Dr. David Satcher.

Campbell has also been recognized as the first woman and the first nurse to command a military hospital in a combat zone in Bosnia. A promotion to Brigadier General also brought Campbell national attention.
If Campbell had gotten the position, it would have made her the highest-ranking health official in the U.S. She didn’t apply for the position. Bush staff members pursued her based on her record in Bosnia.

“I didn’t go in there thinking I was going to get this job,” said Campbell. She still considers it quite an honor. Campbell joined the Army in 1972 and has several degrees in nursing. The 50-year-old mother of two lives in Longview, Wash. with her husband, Doug, and sons Colin and Ryan.”

Chasing God Details Life of Grad

"From Catholic girlhood, entry and exit from the convent, marriage, motherhood, divorced "seldom" at age fifty, annulment, remarriage, to breast cancer," Shirley Cunningham's new book covers it all.

A 1967 Viterbo University English alumna and former Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, Cunningham's book, Chasing God, is a spiritual memoir based on 30 years of journaling and designed to encourage others who are struggling with loss---from health to faith to love. Sue Ann Thompson '65, president of Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation, who reviewed the book said, "Chasing God has the power to reach and teach anyone on a path of healing and spiritual growth. Shirley's insights into the gifts inherent in disease will greatly contribute to any reader's spiritual understanding of health and illness."

Cunningham is a certified counselor in private practice and a spiritual director who lives in Scottsdale, Ariz. She gives workshops and retreats throughout the country. The book is available for $19.95 plus shipping and handling from Amoranita Publishing. For more information, or to order the book, call 1-866-654-7268 or visit www.amoranita.com.

Alumna Named New Mexico's 2002 Music Teacher of the Year

“Ultimately, my goal with teaching is to try to help people be happy,” said Juanita Lash Madland in an interview with the University of New Mexico (UNM) Campus News.

And that’s the very attitude that helped her achieve the state of New Mexico's highest honor for music teachers---the Music Teacher of the Year Award---in 2002. Madland, who graduated from Viterbo in 1963, received her master’s degree in music at UNM-Los Alamos and currently is a music teacher there. Those who nominated her for the award cited her for the love of music she instills in her students and the vast opportunities she presents to her students in the form of master classes, student public performances, concert series, and more. One of her most recent projects has been a concert series designed to bring the public to campus to hear quality music and to help raise funds for the university to purchase a grand piano. A worldwide performer, Madland has held a solo concert at Antwerp’s Peter Paul Rubens Museum in Belgium and at a Salzburg Mozarteum branch in Italy. She was also a winner in Albuquerque’s Symphony Orchestra competition. She played Beethoven’s “Emperor Concerto.”
CLASS NOTES

1950
Mary (Noel) Dameron '55 exhibited four paintings at the La Crosse Public Library from August 2001 to April 2002. She also sings in an Irish heritage choir and presented a concert at the Milwaukee Irish Fest in August 2002.

1960
Rosemarie (Fritz) Smith, Ph.D. ’60 retired at the end of June 2002. She was the first non-CPA to be granted Member Emeritus status from both the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts (NACVA) and the International Alliance of Consultants Valuers and Analysts (IACVA). She plans to travel with her husband, Ed, and to enjoy painting, embroidery, and grandchildren, and will be doing some consulting to occupy her time.
Marianna Abledinger, FSPA '63 received a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry from St. Mary’s University, Winona, May 2002. Her research was titled “Integrating Ojibwe Native American Spirituality with the Roman Catholic Church.”
Cecelia Corcoran, FSPA '63 was a featured co-presenter at the Seventh Annual Summer Spirituality Institute of Wisdom Ways Resource Center for Spirituality in St. Paul. She presented, along with Sr. Linda Mershon, FSPA, a course option, entitled Retrieving the Feminine Soul Through Ancient Myth and Legend, which explored experiences of women across various cultures that shed light on women’s stories today.

1970
Patricia (Rickert) Bacon ’70 is employed by the Appleton Area School District as a unit leader and third-grade teacher. She works with Pre-Action Network of Outagamie County in AODA Prevention for the county, representing the town of Freedom; is the coordinator of activities for the Freedom High School Alumni Association; and publishes their newsletter.
Julie Tydrich, FSPA ’72 was elected president of Wisconsin Treasurers of Religious Institutes, May 2002. She will serve as president for two years.

1973 is the owner of Mary Creations, a new company that decorates for special events.

1975
Linda Layer ’75 is the Principal for the Elcho School District, Elcho, Wis.

1977
Susan (Buening) Steffek ’77 was nominated for the Disney Creativity in Teaching Award. She is a second-grade teacher at St. John the Baptist School, Marshfield.
Laura Collins ’75--77 was elected for a three-year term to the public relations post on the executive board of Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association.

1978
Catherine (Daley) Prindle ’78 received a master’s degree in elementary education from Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, December 2001.

1979
Eileen Collins ’79 married Jim Beach Aug. 2, 2002. They live in Dakota, Minn.
Janice Dziewior '79 was promoted to divisional vice president of customer advocacy at ALARIS Medical System, San Diego.

Paula (Naiman) Gray '79 is the director of marketing for Environmental Design based in Texas. The company specializes in transplanting large trees.

Michelle (Scholze) Riffenberg '79 was awarded a 2001-02 Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Business in Minnesota.

Mike Shimshak '79 accepted a new position as superintendent of schools for the School District of Lodi.

1980

Maria (Rodriguez) Keilman '81 received a Master of Arts degree in Psychology, Marriage, and Family Therapy from Chapman University, Monterey, Calif.

Bette (Pertzsch) Pedretti '81, '02 is a cardiology nurse practitioner. She has worked at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center since 1983. Bette is a member of the American Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

Debra Adel-Fahey '82, '02 is a cardiology certified nurse practitioner. She has worked at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center since 1980 and has been in the Coronary Care unit since 1984. Debra is a member of the American Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

Elizabeth Carson '84 received an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction with a specialization in curriculum leadership from Northern Illinois University-De Kalb, August 2002.

Stephanie Miller-Lamb '85 is employed as the operations director of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Madison.

Leann (Moscinski) Neitzke '86 received her Master of Science degree in Community Health Nursing from Northern Illinois University, May 2002.

Robert Hoyt '86 recently completed his Master of Fine Arts degree in Dramaturgy at Columbia University. He is the associate producing director for the Acting Company, New York.

Laura Ketchum '86 and Ahmet Ciftci celebrated the birth of a son, Tayyib Ahmet Melik, April 27, 2002.

Diane (Mayer) '88 and Thomas Knothe '86 celebrated the birth of a son, Jack, Sept. 5, 2002. He joins his sisters, Mary and Elizabeth.

Wendy (Adams) Christensen '85--'87 has been named chief administrative officer for Fullerton Company, Minneapolis.

Diane (Donsky) '87 and Scott Hefle celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob Matthew, May 1, 2002. He joins his brother, Nathan.

Elizabeth (Hanson) Atwill '87 recently became the environmental and spatial technology facilitator for Osceola Public Schools, Ark.

Dawn Kutt, FSPA '87 traveled to Jamaica in November 2002 to minister as a missionary of Mother Theresa’s with the Sisters of Charity.

Susan Brose '88 is working in an ambulatory surgery center in Sarasota, Fla. She received National Certification for Nurse Consulting in October 2001 and works part-time in an attorney’s office.

Earl Madary '88 presented a paper to the fourth general meeting of the Thomas Merton Society in London April 2002. The paper, *Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day: The Marriage of Contemplation and Action, Call to Radical Hospitality*, was presented with Richard Berendes
of Franciscan Skemp Healthcare. It examined the correspondence between Merton and Day in chronological order from 1959 until Merton’s death in 1968.

Karla (Mathews) ’88 and Jeffrey Fennie celebrated the birth of a son, Calvin Jeffrey, June 25, 2002. He joins his sisters, Maryl, Brier, and Brynna.

Bett Potazek ’88 is the artistic director of Kaiser Permanente’s Educational Theatre Program in Atlanta.

Jennifer Domask ’92 married Christopher Larson ’89, June 20, 2002. Christopher recently graduated from the Physician’s Assistant Program at UW-La Crosse. They are both employed at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, La Crosse.

LoAnn (Stinson) DeBoer ’89 received a Master of Arts degree in Nursing from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, 2002. She is a nurse practitioner in the neonatology intensive care unit of Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, La Crosse. LoAnn is a member of the National Association of Neonatal Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and the Academy of Neonatal Nursing.

Mark Frank ’89 received the 2002 Outstanding Academic Advisor Award from NACASA at their national meeting in Salt Lake City, Sept. 2002. In his acceptance speech, Mark said: “Do I have all the answers with advising? No, but I’ve been teaching for 10 years now, and if it hadn’t been for one Sr. Marie Leon La Croix, I wouldn’t be where I am today. She was my advisor in college and, today, I teach what she taught me, and the love and care she gave to me as a student, I now give to my students. I hope my students will pass it on to their students of the future and become the type of advisor I am today.”

Laurie and Paul Theisen ’89 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Olivia Violet, September 2002. Paul is a theatre technician for Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa.

1990

Rita (Buttner) Schuman ’90 recently purchased a partnership in Reed Music Studio, Onalaska. She is also the current chair of the Wisconsin Music Teacher’s Auditions. She teaches approximately 65 students weekly and is a frequent performer and accompanist.

Mary (Dubiel) ’90 and Timothy Pomietlo celebrated the birth of a daughter, Nicole, Dec. 13, 2001. She joins her siblings, Matthew, 2, Meredith, 4, and Lindsay, 9. Mary is a RN at the Marshfield Clinic. They live in Chippewa Falls.

Marci Lau ’90 married Curt DeBoer July 6, 2002.


Jan (Schaaf) ’90 and Mark Mailloux celebrated the birth of a son, Dominic, Sept. 23, 2002.

Mike Boticki ’91 was promoted to assistant clinical coordinator for Childynamics Day Treatment and Outpatient Services, Milwaukee.

Laurie Bannick-Junge ’91 and Michael Junge have two daughters, Josey, 4, and Amelia, 2. Laurie works full time as a school psychiatrist for a Phoenix school district. They live in Phoenix.


Patrick Gibbons ’91 will be listed in the next edition of Who’s Who in American Teachers.

Sherry (Guernsey) ’91 and David Carter celebrated the birth of a son, Jacob Matthew, Sept. 23, 2002.
Patricia and Peter Hansen ’91 celebrated the birth of a son, Kaydon, April 2, 2002. He joins his brothers, Kyle and Brice.

Rachel (Ott) Evenson ’91 is the new principal of St. Peter’s School, Hokah, Minn.

Valerie and Mike Reis ’91 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hayden Joy, Sept. 10, 2002. She joins her siblings, Lawson and Payton.

Danielle (Murphy) ’91 and Timothy Sprain celebrated the birth of a son, bbie Larsen, Jan. 21, 2002.

Christine (Conrad) ’92 and David Ott celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madelyn Therese, Aug. 9, 2002.

Kenneth Osowski ’92 is the corporate vice president and controller for First Federal Savings Bank of La Crosse.


Patricia (Steffes) ’92 and Mike Schulist celebrated the birth of a son, Jared Michael, Oct. 14, 2002. He joins his sister, McKenzie.

Lori (Prissel) Subera ’92 recently passed the certification exam for Telephone Nursing Practice offered by NCC and earned the credentials RNC. In addition to working full-time as a triage nurse for Midelfort Clinic-Mayo Health Systems, Eau Claire, she recently started her own business, Basket Works, creating custom-made baskets. Lori and her husband, Scott, have two children, Kristin, 9, and Ryan, 7. They live in Chippewa Falls.

Sara (Lepak) ’93 and Brian Kromke celebrated the birth of a daughter, Gracie Elizabeth, Oct. 21, 2002. She joins her brother, Nicholas, 3.


Laura Roberts ’93 married Dale Holley July 2002. Laura is a kindergarten teacher at Eagle Bluff Elementary School, Onalaska. They live in Holmen.

Lisa Runde ’93, ’01 married Andrew Horstman July 6, 2002 in La Crosse.

Eileen Shaw, FSPA ’93 received a master’s degree in pastoral studies from St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa, May 12, 2002. Her research project examined the effect of a chaplain’s presence in the operating room during surgery from the perspective of the patient and the patient’s family.

Tracy (Soller) ’93 and Keith Dryden celebrated the birth of a son, Mitchell Calvin, April 11, 2002. He joins his sisters, Alex and Payton.

Kathleen (Tooke) Valentine ’93 is teaching art at Eagle Bluff Elementary School, Onalaska.

Amy (Folz) ’94, ’02 and Judd Hanson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Joslyn Grace “Josie” Hanson, July 31, 2002. Amy, who teaches at the West Salem Middle School, West Salem, was named a 2002 Kohl Teacher Fellow. Fellowship recipients are chosen for their superior ability to inspire a love of learning in their students, their ability to motivate others, and for their leadership and service within, and outside the classroom.

Holly Gierok ’94 is employed as a staff accountant in the tax department of Wipfli Ulrich Bertelson LLP—a CPA firm with offices located throughout Wisconsin and one in Minnesota. She resides in Eau Claire.
Bradley Hanson '94 received his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas-Lawrenceville July 5, 2002. He is employed by Pfizer Global Research & Development.

Patricia Heidvogel '94 and Thomas Keil celebrated the birth of a son, Jack Patrick, March 14, 2001. He joins his sister, Cora.


Richelle (Huber) '94 and Keith Stetzer celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kaitlin Charlotte, Aug. 6, 2002.

Jodie (June) '94 and Ed Szewczyk celebrated the birth of a daughter, Alyssa Mae, Dec. 21, 2001.

Terri (McHugh) '94 and Steve Olson celebrated the birth of a son, Quinten Martin, April 1, 2002.

Susan McKenna-Slapp '94 and Todd Slapp celebrated the birth of a daughter, Molly, Nov 2, 2001.

Lori (Prondzinski) '94 and Todd Beck celebrated the birth of a son, Austin Harvey, Sept. 1, 2002.

Barbara Rugen-Rendler '94, '02 is a cardiovascular surgery nurse practitioner. She is employed by Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, La Crosse, and at St. Mary’s Hospital, Rochester, Minn. in their intensive care units.

Jane (Schroeder) '94 and Christopher Powless celebrated the birth of a son, Isaiah Noble, Aug. 28, 2002. He joins his siblings, Amber, Jerrel, and Caitlin.

Shannon (Thomas) '94 and George Schaieb celebrated the birth of a son, George Anthony, March 15, 2002.


Linda and Grant Brintnall '95 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Olivia Rae, July 18, 2002. She joins her brothers, Sam, 4, and David, 2.

Tricia (Bluske) '95 and Tim Gappa celebrated the birth of a son, Justin, Oct. 15, 2002.

Jennifer Hedrick '95 married David Erickson June 8, 2002.

Kellie (Hentschel) '95 and Brian Reitzel celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jillian Elise, Aug. 19, 2002.

Jaine (Jessesski) '96 and Mike McCormick '95 celebrated the birth of a son, Carson Thomas, Oct. 24, 2002.

Karin Maresh '95 married Michael Silva July 13, 2002. Karin is employed by Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio. They live in Columbus.


Rob Anderson '96 received the 2002 American College Personnel Association (ACPA) scholarship award at its conference, October 2002. The award is based on service to the field, letters of recommendation, written essay, and grade point average. A program Rob presented at the conference was also chosen “Best Overall Program.” He will go on to present the program at the national conference this spring in Minneapolis. Rob is an Executive Board member for the Wisconsin College Personnel Association. In addition, Rob received the Building a Foundation for Our Community award from the La Crosse Community Foundation. He was nominated for his humanitarian efforts in the greater La Crosse Community.

Julie Bellman '96 married Shawn Copple Aug. 10, 2002 in Fergus Falls, Minn. They reside in Denver.
Kelly (Simmons) '97 and James Dachel '96 celebrated the birth of twins, Nicholas and Matthew, Jan. 16, 2002. They join their sister, Miranda, 2.

Kathleen Haeni '96 was awarded a Crystal Apple for Education in 2002. She teaches at Crivitz Junior High School, Crivitz.

Kjersten (Hanson) Busse '96 received a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December of 2001. She was awarded Clinical Nurse Specialist certification Sept. 2002. She was recently employed as a cardiology prevention specialist at the University Hospital, Madison.

Alyson Alperin married Matthew Hemberger '96 Nov. 9, 2002. Matthew recently received a Ph.D. in pharmacy from Florida State University. He is employed by Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Morgantown, W.Va.


Valerie (Kokott) '96 and Brian Rebhahn celebrated the birth of a daughter, Brianna Jayne, July 31, 2002.


Dana (Watkins) '96 and Christopher Radle celebrated the birth of a daughter, Josie Julianne-Jean, April 30, 2002. She joins her siblings, Maisie, 4, and Riley Christopher, 2.

James Vacek '96 was recently employed as a certified surgical specialist by United States Surgical. He lives in Green Bay.


Kimberly (Dow) '97 and Chris Riley celebrated the birth of a daughter, McKenna Jo, June 1, 2002.

Carrie (Emond) '97 and Mitch Jacobson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Emma Grace, Feb. 11, 2002.

Paula (Flaskrud) '97 and Brian Stedman celebrated the birth of a son, Zechaiah, June 12, 2002. He joins his brother, Draven.

Peter Fleming '97 completed his Master of Arts degree in Voice Performance at the University of Southern California, May 2002. He is continuing his education and performed in Italy this summer. During the coming year, he will be performing with the Los Angeles Opera Company and continuing voice lessons in New York.

Yvette Heritsch '97 and Jake Geissinger celebrated the birth of a son, Christopher Damon, Aug. 13, 2001.


Kimberly (Kohlwey) '97 and Jeffery Scott celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel Vernon, Jan. 16, 2002.

Rebekah Warner married Stacy Kowalski '97 June 22, 2002 at the Wesley United Methodist Church, La Crosse. They live in Sparta.
John O'Brien ’97 had his CD, *Crossing Over by Johnny O* released in April 2002. He also opened for actor, comedian, musician, Jerry Reed on July 28, 2002 at a regional country fest in Wallace, Mich. Jennifer Stefferud ’97 married Aaron Zilka, April 2002. They live in Minneapolis. Kari (Verse) ’97 and Bart Bruley celebrated the birth of a son, Anton David Bruley, March 2, 2002. He joins his sibling at home. Scott White ’97 was recently employed by Community Credit Union of La Crosse as mortgage loan originator. He will assist clients with financing for home purchases, and refinances and investment property financing. Bonny Young ’97 was commissioned as a FSPA Prayer Partner, May 2002. Matt Boehler ’98 was a winner in the district auditions and advanced to the regional auditions in February at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul. He also won the Encouragement Award at the recent Metropolitan Opera district auditions in Minneapolis. Matt, a bass, is in his second season with the Minnesota Opera Resident Artists Program. He is a two-time first prize winner of the Schubert Club auditions in the Twin Cities. Barbara (Boerschinger) Payette ’98 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Mariah, July 30, 2001. Amy Clark ’98 married Chris Hanifl Sept. 21, 2002. Amy became an independent sales director of Mary Kay Cosmetics June 1, 2002. Velda Groot ’98 has been nominated for the second time for *Who’s Who Among American Teachers*, seventh edition. Amy and Nate Keller ’98 celebrated the birth of a son, Austin, April 15, 2001. Tosha (Hanson) ’99 and Andy Palmer ’98 celebrated the birth of a son, Mason David, July 23, 2002. Shane Peper ’98 is one of eleven analytical chemistry graduate students that have been selected by the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry to receive fellowships for the 2002-03 year. The program encourages basic research in analytical chemistry and recognizes future leaders in the field. Shane designs novel polymeric materials for improving the lifetime of potentiometric and optical ion-selective chemical sensors, and he applies this technology to the development of microsphere-based sensing strategies for the analysis of clinical electrolytes. His fellowship is sponsored by Eli Lilly and Co. Julie Rubenzer ’98 married Craig Anderson Aug. 11, 2001. Rebecca (Schmidt) Blank ’98 received a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies from Western Michigan University-Kalamazoo. She is employed by Gundersen Lutheran Heart Institute, La Crosse as a cardiology certified physician assistant and is a member of the American Academy of the Physician Assistants. Marjorie Starbuck ’98 retired from the Des Moines School District at the end of the 2002 school year. She taught there for 32 years. Sasha (Stephany) ’98 and Duane German celebrated the birth of a son, Jack Thomas, Oct. 8, 2002. Jennifer Tilleman ’98 received a Doctor of Pharmacy from Creighton University, May 18, 2002. She has accepted a pharmacy residency in Internal Medicine at the Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha. Kurt Weyers ’98 was named Wrestling Coach of the Year for two years in a row. He teaches and coaches for the Tomahawk School District, Tomahawk.
Nancyanne Ziegeweid ’98 married Paul Winey March 16, 2002, at the Pleasant Valley Church, Winona, Minn.
Virginia Aulik ’99 is the director of ICU/Telemetry/Cardiopulmonary/Respiratory Services at Freeport Memorial Hospital, Rockford, Ill.
Melanie Bush ’99 is employed by City Brewery of La Crosse in the human resources department doing payroll and benefits.
Jennifer (Dietmeyer) ’99 and Daron Juneau celebrated the birth of a daughter, Madeline, March 15, 2002. She joins her brother, Hayden, 2.
Sarah (Eisenbach) ’99 and Peter Thompson celebrated the birth of a daughter, Skyla Sue, Sept. 19 2002. She joins her brother, Casey.
Dan Freckelton ’99 was recently hired as a salesman for Kozol Brothers, a Miller Brewing Co. distributor, in Joliet, Ill.
Mary (Heimer) Anderson ’99 became a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nurses in the Omicron Delta Chapter of the University of Phoenix, May, 2002. She received a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Phoenix, with highest honors, June 2002 and is currently employed by St. Mary’s Hospital, Rochester.
Derek Jackson ’99 was promoted to supervisor at United Government Services in Milwaukee, which administers the federal Medicare program.
Valerie Larson ’99 is employed by Intellistaf Flying Nurses as a Travel Nurse/RN. She is currently in Sarasota, Fla. until April 2003.
Jay Melchoir ’99 is employed by VEE Entertainment Corporation of Minneapolis as an actor/puppeteer. He plays the part of Ord in Dragon Tales Live.
Richard Pfaff ’99 was recently promoted to position of senior legislative research analyst with the Legislative Reference Bureau for the City of Milwaukee.
Sheryl (Voss) ’99 and Phil Solberg celebrated the birth of a daughter, Eleanor, Jan. 29, 2002.
Trisha (Winter) ’99 and Darin Johnson celebrated the birth of a son, Xavier James, April 7, 2002.
2000
Rod Barta ’00 was named Middle School Teacher of the Year, spring 2002, for the Oconto School District.
Wyatt Biel ’00 moved to Boston after graduation and served as an Americorps member in a rehabilitation community for people with mental illness. Recently, he has been guiding outdoor excursions as a trip leader with the Appalachian Mountain Club, and working as an analytical chemist for Inotek Pharmaceuticals Corporation. He has earned his private pilot’s license as well. Wyatt is now attending the Boston College Graduate School’s Ph.D. program in chemistry.
Serena Dolato ’00 married
Christopher Bahe May 25, 2002 at the Chapel in the Glen, Gatlinburg, Tenn. They live in Pensacola, Fla.

**Jennifer Drexler '00** is in her third year of medical school at Des Moines University.

**Pamela Greene '00** is employed by the Milwaukee Public School District as a literacy coach.

**Vanessa Lipke '00** married Jeremy Southworth Oct. 5, 2002 at First Lutheran Church, Onalaska.

**Sarah (Lynch) '00** and Brian Lammers celebrated the birth of a son, Trevor, March 13, 2002.

**Erin Latham '00** married Nick Walters Oct. 26, 2002.

**Trisha (Lull) '00** and Jay Mason celebrated the birth of a daughter, Hannah, Feb. 6, 2002.

**Joann Martin '00** married Deja Fouts June 8, 2002 at San Damiano Chapel, Viterbo.

**Dana Pukrop '00** is the Vicar at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Avon, Conn., until Aug. 15, 2003.

**Hillary Laurent '01** married Adam Schellinger '00 Oct. 19, 2002, at the San Damiano Chapel, Viterbo.

**Laura (Schachtner) Schimmel '00** and her sisters, Kristin and Ann, ran in the Twin Cities Marathon, Sept. 29, 2002. They all completed the marathon and finished holding hands.

**Kathi Snyder '00** is one of eight finalists chosen for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching program in Wisconsin. As a math finalist for the state, her name will be forwarded for consideration to the national-level competition.

**Aaron Tyznik '00** entered the graduate program in immunology at the University of Washington, September 2002.

**Jennifer Bauer '01** married Mike Sanfther June 29, 2002. Jennifer is employed by St. Anthony’s Regional Medical Center, Carroll, Iowa as a nurse on a surgical pediatrics unit. They reside in Dedham, Iowa.

**Vicky Boggs '01** was recently promoted to nursing supervisor at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

**Bridget Burbach '01** and Jon Burbach celebrated the birth of a son, Samuel Joseph, Aug. 12, 2002. They live in Oshkosh.


**Amy Driscoll '01** and Terry Driscoll celebrated the birth of a son, Joseph, May 14, 2002.


Chad Hrdina '01 has been accepted in the master’s program at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. He is pursuing his Master of Science degree in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology with an emphasis on Biotechnology. This is an intensive one-year program.

**Lisa Klein '01** and Randall Klein celebrated the birth of a son, Andrew Dean, May 23, 2002.

**Brian Konkol '01** participated in service trips to South Carolina, Texas, and Kentucky this summer, before returning to his studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

**Leah (Moldenhauer) Potaracke '01** received her designation as a certified public accountant. She is employed by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP in La Crosse. She provides audit and tax services for businesses and individuals located in western Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota.

Betsy and **Mark Nordby '01** celebrated the birth of a son, Gabe Andrew.

**Katie Petersen '01** married **Kyle DeVries '01** Aug. 10, 2001. Katie is employed by Waukesha Memorial Hospital as a registered nurse on the medical/surgical floor. Kyle is employed by the City of Pewaukee as a police officer. They live in Pewaukee.

**Brea (Snyder) '01** and Bryn Burrick celebrated the birth of a son, Grant Allen, March 15, 2002.

Patti and **Eric Upmeyer '01** celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lauren Marie, Jan. 28, 2002.
Erin Ably '02 married Robert June Aug. 10, 2002 at Our Lady of Peace Church, Marshfield. They live in Marshfield.

Colleen Bloecher '02 is attending Northwestern College of Chiropractors, Burnsville, Minn.

Katherine Bolger-Garrison '02 is employed by the Lower Kuskokwim School District in the village of Chefornak, Alaska. Chefornak is located in the southwest region of Alaska and about five miles from the Bering Sea. Katherine is teaching general education to a combination class of fifth and sixth graders. Her son, Logan, 5, is currently enrolled in the kindergarten class there. His class is taught in Yupik, the Eskimo language spoken in this village.

Christopher A. Cook '02 is employed by Lawrence University as a residence hall director and as campus activities programs coordinator. He lives in Appleton.

Bonnie Ihde '02 and Ben Ihde celebrated the birth of a daughter, Rachel, June 6, 2002.

Maureen Kennedy '02 married Ross Cerniglia June 29, 2002. They live in Milwaukee. Maureen is employed by Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, as a registered nurse on a new NICU.

Amy Marx '02 and Michael Marx celebrated the birth of a son, Andrew, Sept. 25, 2002.

Philip Nelson '02 was recently employed and contracted for a year as an actor at a professional Christian theatre company called Site & Sound, Strasburg, Penn.

Carrie Thoreson '02 and Bill Thoreson '02 celebrated the birth of a son, Gunnar, March 19, 2002.


In Memorium

The Viterbo University community joins in prayerful remembrance of those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Esther Nash, July 4, 2002, sister of Agnes Marie Nash, FSPA '41.

Agnes Marie Nash, FSPA '41, July 29, 2002.


Florence Schapman, July 25, 2002, sister of Mynette Gross, FSPA '44.


Charles Schlisser, July 1, 2002, brother of Thelma Schlisser, FSPA '48.


Fr. Walter Bruch, Aug. 6, 2002, brother of Dolores Bruch, FSPA '52.


Leorita Mousel, FSPA '52, July 20, 2002.

Tim Skemp, July 21, 2002, son of Doris (Munster) Skemp '52-'54, nephew of Marietta (Kabeiseman) Munster '57.


Marie Schwers, July 26, 2002, sister of Grace Marie Wilgenbusch, FSPA '54.

Francis Potaracke, July 10, 2002, brother of Theresa (Potaracke) Mc Henry '55 and Rochelle Potaracke, FSPA '64.


Tony Wittig, July 24, 2002, brother of Mary Avila Wittig, FSPA '55.


Claire Kinsella, July 4, 2002, sister of Mary Kevin Ferguson, FSPA ’60.


John Smith, Sept. 9, 2002, brother of Charlene Smith, FSPA ’63.

Gerald Elsbernd, Aug. 22, 2002, brother of Helen Elsbernd, FSPA ’65, Rose Elsbernd, FSPA ’70, and uncle of Jean (Elsbernd) Boyer ’81.


Virginia Borkhardt, Aug. 3, 2002, sister of Betty Hebert, FSPA ’68.

Lucile Sorenson, Sept. 12, 2001, mother of Kristine Sorenson-Smith ’68.

William Maher, July 2, 2002, father of Kathleen (Maher) Haettinger ’69.


David Reget, Nov 13, 2002, brother of Sandra (Reget) Holter ’70, uncle of Paulette (Holter) Gleason ’77 and Therese Schmidt ’80, and brother-in-law of Jane (Braun) Reget ’72-’74.


Joseph “Bud” Kulas, Nov. 12, 2002, father-in-law of Mary (Kampa) Kulas ’73.


Wilfred “Bill” Walleser, Nov. 29, 2002, father of Monica Walleser ’74, uncle of Helen Jean Walleser ’71.


Gary Swanson, July 20, 2002, brother of Janie (Swanson) Binkowski ’75.


Leo Nielsen Skanderup, Aug. 8, 2002, father of Ruth (Haakenson) Dregne ’78.

Marquerite Schneider, Nov. 12, 2002, mother of Fr. Leo Schneider ’78 and Lawrence Schneider ’78.

Matilda Kowahl, June 7, 2002, mother of Kerry Kowahl ’79.


Harold Swartz, July 1, 2002, father of Mary Lu Swartz-Consuegra ’79.

Julie Konichek, April 8 2002, daughter of Marsha (Roach) Konichek ’81.


Betty Thompson, June 18, 2002, mother of Rita Thompson ’86.

Robert Hanson, March 19, 2002, father of Lisa (Hanson) Atwill ’87.

Judith Theisen Moe, Nov. 28, 2002, mother of Paul Theisen ’89.

Patricia Houzner, Aug. 17, 2002, mother of Amber (Houzner) Weiland ’90.

Michael Soller, Sept. 3, 2002, father of Michelle (Soller) Rank ’90, Tracy (Soller) Dryden ’93, Cindy (Soller) Kleman ’93, and father-in-law of Cory Kleman ’93.

Patricia (Spoke) Singleton ’91, Nov. 7, 2002.

A FINAL WORD

Mission Trip to Peru is Life-Changing for This Viterbo Grad

Julie (Greenwood) Hajewski (center) ’98 works as a registered nurse at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse. She has also returned to Viterbo; this time as a graduate student in the Master of Science in Nursing Program.

Less than 24 hours after my return to the U.S., I found myself sitting in my front screen porch watching the neighborhood children ride their bikes down the street to the local park. I was talking on the telephone to a family member and trying to describe my mission trip to Peru and the places and events that even I could not have comprehended just two weeks before. I realized for the first time, as I said it out loud into the telephone, that if I never have more than what I have right now, that’s okay.

My adventure to Peru began many months prior to April when my co-worker and fellow Viterbo alumna, Mary Dudley, called and asked if I would be interested in participating in a medical mission. Although Mary and I graduated from Viterbo many years apart, we both seem to possess a crazy sense of adventure and that same willingness to help others. I quickly made the decision to go and began making preparations. This was the second year of a medical mission to Peru to surgically correct cleft palates, cleft lips, and lazy eyes. In my role as an operating room nurse, I was involved in determining the needed supplies for the operations, and then in securing those supplies through donations.
Mary Dudley, a registered nurse anesthetist, organized the mission and was accompanied by two other nurse anesthetists, five additional registered nurses, two surgeons, one eye ocularist, one lay person, and myself. We were sponsored, in part, by the Diocese of La Crosse; they assisted with purchasing medications that we took to Peru and provided us with shelter and meals in Peru through their orphanage there, Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II.

The group spent one full day seeing potential patients before the week of surgery began. It turned out to be the most heart-wrenching day. In that short time period, the eye team evaluated over 30 patients, and it was disheartening to know we couldn’t do it all. Certain problems were too involved for us to repair and, in other cases, there just was not enough time for us to do what was required. Throughout the week, we were able to perform 16 cleft palate/lip repairs and 20 lazy eye repairs in the course of five operating-room days. The operating room and surgical conditions were extremely marginal compared to American standards.

There was a time I questioned my judgment on whether I should have gone to Peru at all. Shortly upon arrival, and after a long wait in customs, we were herded outside to load up our gear and head for the orphanage. Another nurse and I were asked to ride with the cab drivers and the van full of luggage. Not so strange a request we discovered since the cab drivers would then be required to bring the luggage to the orphanage instead of stealing it! We were, for all practical purposes, the insurance policy. We weren’t sure what to expect and the drivers didn’t speak English. The trip consisted of a very long one-hour ride through the city of Lima in the middle of the night but, eventually, we made it to our destination.

Despite my rather discomforting arrival in Peru, I felt ready for the work that would follow because I’d already sampled the deeper rewards that accompany serving others. My first taste of mission work occurred while I was a student at Viterbo. One year, during spring break, I joined Earl Madary on his yearly trip to David, Ky., a tiny community located amidst the poverty of remote Appalachia. We “wagon-trained” to Kentucky in vans and spent a week helping out. Most of the students volunteered at the David School, but two of us nursing students spent the week at a nearby health clinic “pretending” to be nurses. I was hooked---I wanted to go even further than Kentucky.

And, then the chance to go to Peru came along.

Sometimes, I almost feel guilty when I am in my air-conditioned house, sitting at the computer, or watching television. There are no smells of burning garbage on the hill. No children in the street begging for money or selling fruit and candies to help support their families. And no barbed wire fence or cinder block wall is required around my home to keep my neighbors from stealing my belongings.

I decided to be a nurse to help those that need my help. And, that is why I spent my vacation in Peru giving back to those in need; because I have so much.

That day last April, was the first time in my life, I can recall feeling fulfilled with the things I have---my home, job, friends, family---everything for the most part. I realized that I already have so much more than any child I cared for in Peru could ever dream of having. That realization is indeed a gift that money will never ever be able to buy.
EXTRAS

Service Offers Monstrous Benefits to Viterbo Students, Alumni

The campus was invaded by monsters mid-November when representatives from MonsterTRAK drove to campus in their monster mobile and set up shop. The display, located outside Murphy Center on Viterbo Court, featured the MonsterTRAK car and a computer center in a 20'x 30' unit that allowed students to explore job and internship opportunities, play games, and win prizes.

Viterbo’s Office of Career Planning and Placement (CPP) teamed up with MonsterTRAK, the definitive career resource for college students and alumni, to offer this unique service from Monster.com. With unique password-protection, MonsterTRAK’s database can be accessed only by Viterbo students and alumni. This security allows employers to target recruitment efforts to Viterbo, assuring them a highly qualified and motivated pool of candidates. This service is provided at no charge to students and alumni.

In addition to the job listing and resume database, other features of Viterbo’s MonsterTRAK system include message boards, where students can post questions to employers, and the JobSearch Guide, which includes tips on everything from how to write a resume to how to negotiate a salary. The CPP office at Viterbo offers a range of services, resources, and programs to educate students and alumni in all aspects of the career development process. For more information, explore www.monsterTRAK.com, contact Viterbo’s CPP at 608-796-3828, or email ajlane@viterbo.edu.

A Passion for Flowers

With over 400 varieties of geraniums and 13 varieties of passionflowers, Ed Wenzel may not have needed another plant in his house but that’s exactly what he got when he experimented with cross-pollination one day.

“This was purely accidental,” said the director of Viterbo’s early childhood education program. “I took a Q-tip, got pollen, and applied it to the other flower. It rarely takes but this did. It bore one seed, which I germinated. I had no intentions of anything coming of this, other than the pure joy.”

The result of that germination was Passiflora x “Royal Mist,” a new version of the passionflower. The name is based on the dark purple filaments and light lavender background of the flower.

Passionflowers are so called because they have 10 petals representing the most faithful apostles (minus Peter and Judas). In addition, the lacy fringe is said to look like the crown of thorns, the five anthers symbolize Christ’s wounds, the three stigmas represent the nails that held Christ on the cross.

The seed of Wenzel’s plant took one year to germinate. It blooms year-round in ideal conditions and its vine grows 30-40 feet each year. The grandparent to “Royal Mist” is winter hardy. A house plant company is actually interested in patenting Wenzel’s flower and is in the process of determining just how hardy the plant is---which takes several years.
“I’ve been interested in plants for 46 years. It started when I was 6. As the oldest of eight children, my mother put me in charge of one of her flowerbeds to help out. My brother had one, too, but he didn’t take care of his so pretty soon I was responsible for two,” he said. Wenzel considers gardening a respite from teaching and the rigors of life. “It’s what I enjoy doing. Each person should find something to do which they enjoy, which brings passion to their life, that keeps our enthusiasm for life alive. This means a lot to me,” he said.